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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
31 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 12:30 P.M. EDT)

Saigon

1. Press reports indicate that a meeting took place on the evening of 31 May (Vietnam time) between government and Buddhist Institute leaders in Saigon. There is no official reporting on the event at this time and no hard information about what transpired.

2. The six man delegation to the Gia Long palace reportedly was led by Tam Chau, President of the Buddhist Institute, and included the militant monks Thien Minh and Phap Tri. Both Prime Minister Ky and Chief of State Thieu were said to have been present at the two hour meeting.

3. No announcements were forthcoming from either side after the meeting, but it was indicated that the talks would resume tomorrow. Institute Deputy Chairman Phap Tri told a reporter that the government had agreed to release Buddhist demonstrators arrested during the anti-government rallies of the past ten days.

Hue

4. The situation in the city is quiet. The time limit has now run out on Province Chief Khoa's order to the student "struggle forces" to surrender their arms and evacuate Radio Hue. There is no word that the students have complied with the ultimatum or that Colonel Khoa has taken any retaliatory action.

ARMY review(s) completed.

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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5. Colonel Khoa is now believed to be the only effective representative of government authority in the Hue area, according to MACV reports. His leadership has been recognized by I Corps headquarters in Da Nang by its establishment of a separate radio net with Khoa at his command post outside the city. General Nhuan, the 1st Division Commander, left Hue on the afternoon of the 31st (Vietnam time) and apparently is now at the 1st Division headquarters in La Vang, northwest of Hue.

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